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Amdt. Dated February 9, 2004
Reply to Office action of November 14, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-45 remain pending in this application.

Claims allowable over the applied art

Claims 1-21,25-37 and 40-45 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murthy et al (US Pat. No. 6,055,295) in view of Zur et al (US Pat. No. 6,243,441). Applicants respectfully submit that the applied references do not teach, suggest, or disclose (either individually or in combination) applicant's invention as described independent claims 1, 28 and 44. Claims 1 and claim 44 discloses an image data acquisition system comprising a host computer having at least one host processor executing operations with an operating system and a host memory storing data and a detector framing node being programmable to receive image data from a selected flat panel detector of a plurality of different flat panel detectors and communicating the received image data to the host memory independent of the operating system. Claim 28 specifically recites a detector framing node comprising a computer communication interface to communicate image data with a host memory of a host computer over a computer communication bus independently from control of a host processor of the host computer. Claim 28 further recites a control unit to receive a plurality of event instructions from the host computer through the computer communication interface, the event instructions selectively controlling events in the detector framing node, a radiation generation system or an image detection system and the control unit executing the event instructions in real time at predetermined timing intervals.

Murthy et al. does not teach, suggest or disclose Applicant's claimed invention. Specifically, Murthy does not teach or suggest an image acquisition system comprising a detector framing node being programmable to receive image data from selected flat panel detectors. Murthy merely describes a method for automatically setting a collimator of an x-ray imaging system during image acquisition. Murthy further discloses classifying each of regions as one of body and non-body regions using global features. The classification is performed by providing an hierarchical decision tree constructed from a collection of training pixels. Applicant has carefully reviewed column 6, 28-38 and column 3 lines 8-30 of the reference. Murthy et al describes merely discloses a classification and regression tree algorithm to classify a pixel in an image as a body part or a non-body part. Nowhere does Murthy describe a detector framing node being programmable to receive image data from a selected flat panel detector of a plurality of different flat panel detectors. Further, Murthy does not teach, suggest or disclose and communicating the received image data to the host memory independent of the operating system.

The Zur reference does not overcome the above noted deficiencies of Murthy et al. The Zur reference teaches a radiation imager that operates to provide real time radiation data and integrated radiation data to provide a radiation image. The Examiner notes that the Zur reference discloses a host computer and a communication link connecting the image detecting module. Applicants respectfully submit that the Zur reference merely teaches the used of the communication link for transferring control information from the host computer to the detection module (column 8, lines 21-32) and raw image data representative of an image from the detection

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module to the host computer(column 9, lines 39-45). Nowhere does the Zur reference teach, suggest or disclose communicating the received image data to the host memory independent of the operating system.

For a prima facia case of obviousness, the Examiner must set forth the differences in the claim over the applied references, set forth the proposed modification of the reference, which would be necessary to arrive at the claimed subject matter, and explain why the proposed modification would be obvious. Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action has not set forth a proper motivation for combining the teachings of Murthy and Zur.
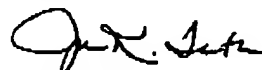
Furthermore, even if teachings of the applied references were somehow combined no combination of Murthy and Zur would obtain Applicants' recited invention of suggest an image acquisition system comprising a detector framing node being programmable to receive image data from selected flat panel detectors.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention, as recited in independent claims 1, 28 and 44 defines allowable subject matter over the applied art. Claims 2-27 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, claims 29-43 depend directly or indirectly from claim 28 and claim 45 depends from claim 44. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested, and allowance of claims 1-45 is respectfully solicited.

In view of the foregoing amendment and for the reasons set out above, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is needed to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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